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25 May 2004

Via Facsimile

A. Aoki, Ishida & Associates
Toranomon 37 Mori Bldg.
3-5-1, Toranomon, Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-8423 JAPAN

13 pages in transmission

Attn: Junichi Tsuruta

Re: JP Patent Application No. 2000-516220
"Laminate Microstructure Device and Method for Making Same"
ACLARA Biosciences, Inc.
ACLARA ref. 019.01JP
Your ref. B005747

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your several letters and comments regarding the above application.

I have reviewed your letter of June 14, 2000. Please make the corrections that you suggest, both corrections (1)-(8) and corrections (a)-(s).

Please delete current claim 1-40 and replace them with the new claims 68-71 on the attached sheet. Please re-number the new claims as appropriate.

Please note that I have also attached a copy of an Amendment submitted to the USPTO. Could you please amend the specification of the Japanese application to include the amendments set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the attached Amendment, starting with the amendment on page 5. (These amendments replace docket numbers and application numbers with patent numbers).

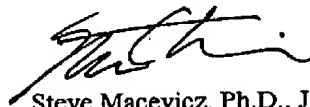
1288 Pear Avenue • Mountain View, CA 94043 • Tel: (650) 210-1200 • Fax: (650) 210-1210

A. Aoki, Ishida & Associates
Japanese application 2000-516220
Page 2

Please also note that on page 7 and 8 of the Amendment there is a table that identifies the basis for terms and concepts used in the new claims.

Thank you again for your help. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Sincerely,



Steve Macevicz, Ph.D., J.D.
Vice President Intellectual Property
ACLARA Bioscience, Inc.
(650) 210-1223
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Attachments

Claims for Japanese Pat. Appl. No. 2000-516220

(ACLARA ref. 019.01JP)

68. (New) A microstructure device for detecting one or more analytes produced in a plurality of assays, the microstructure device comprising a flexible elongate laminate having an array of microchannel structures arranged therein, the flexible elongate laminate comprising a first lamina having a first surface and a second lamina having a second surface, wherein at least one of the first or second lamina has a plurality of openings so that whenever the first surface of the first lamina apposes the second surface of the second lamina each opening of the plurality of openings is in fluid communication with one of said plurality of microstructures, each of said microstructures comprising:

- a sample supply reservoir at an opening;

- a sample drain reservoir connected to the sample supply reservoir by one or more microchannel segments;

- an elution buffer reservoir;

- an analyte waste reservoir;

- a separation channel connecting the elution buffer reservoir and the analyte waste reservoir and intersecting and being in fluid communication with said one or more microchannel segments; and

- a plurality of electrodes connected to conductive traces to generate an electric field between the sample supply reservoir and the sample drain reservoir when an electroflow medium is present in the one or more microchannel segments and to generate an electrical field between the elution buffer reservoir and the analyte waste reservoir when an electroflow medium is present in the separation channel.

69. The microstructure device of claim 68 further comprising a flexible circuit laminate adjacent to said first lamina, the flexible circuit laminate comprising said conductive traces connected to said plurality of electrodes.

70. (New) The microstructure device of claim 69 wherein said microstructures of said array are arranged in a 12 x 8 orthogonal arrangement or in a 24 x 16 orthogonal arrangement.

71. (New) The microstructure device of claim 69 wherein said first lamina, said second lamina, and said flexible circuit laminate are plastic.